

Stoke St Michael Community Events Group 2020-21

With another year dominated by varying levels of Covid restrictions our report is again brief

The financial position of SSMCEG remains healthy. From last year's balance of £3746, regular income from the Mendip Shape Lottery has again offset the overheads of insurance and storage charges leaving a balance of £3839 at the end of year

Thanks as always to Shawn at the Knatchbull for his continued support with the donation of a further £147 raised at pub quizzes towards the cost of a future Stokefest event. This brings the total ring-fenced for Stokefest to £2799

Covid Volunteer work tailed off this year however Al Stewart, Keith Hambly, myself and Penny Anderson continued to support villagers with prescription deliveries, and this is still in place for a handful of households who would otherwise struggle with collection from Oakhill Surgery. At long last Keith was able to dispense with his massive prescription spreadsheet!

Thanks to Al and Sarah Stewart who organised a successful litter pick in October and another one earlier this month. It is pleasing to see that as a village we now seem to be on top of the problem as the litter collected is substantially less than it was in the early days

We were able to lend SSMCEG marquees and equipment to support the school with their very successful fundraiser '40 for The Federation', and there were a couple of private marquee hires in the summer generating funds

The major SSMCEG event of 2021 was 'Carols & Cake' in early December, a really festive and social afternoon of song brought to us by the talented Swan Singers of Wells along with the children of Stoke School who did extraordinarily well considering their brief rehearsal time prior to the event!

SSMCEG are grateful to Keith Hambly for his vision and organisation, as well as securing the funding for this well received event

With the support of a Covid "reconnecting communities" grant of £500 from Somerset County Council, we were able to fully cover the expenses of staging this event. This meant the proceeds of just over £300 from ticket sales and donations could be passed on to church funds

We would like to thank the Church for hosting the 'Carols' part, and the Hall for hosting the 'Cake' part which worked really well. Thanks to Jacqui Gait, Teresa Taylor Wolff and all those who helped out with the catering along with those who kindly donated cakes and mince pies

Al Stewart & Nick Corbett enhanced the event by taking responsibility for the erection of the impressive village Christmas tree which was funded by the Parish Council and the switching on of the lights

We now look ahead to village events restarting in 2022

SSMCEG are hosting 'Picnic in the Park' on Sunday 5th June from 3pm, part of a long Bank Holiday weekend of celebrations to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which will involve all village groups. We have booked some live music and are hoping for some sunshine!

We are now holding funds of £1000, a donation to the village from Rick Massey at Cookswood for the Platinum Celebrations and these will be split between village groups in due course

We look forward to seeing you all on the Community Playing Field in June!

Amanda Taylor. SSMCEG Chair. 11th April 2022

